

# ALASKA

## SUMMARY OF FY 1997 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

This profile summarizes the priorities, goals, and objectives established by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) under the State/EPA Partnership Agreement for watershed management. All non-watershed programs detailed in the Agreement (air quality, drinking water, and the pesticide program) will still be based on the traditional work plans and grant applications, and, therefore, are not summarized in this document.

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR ACHIEVING KEY GOALS

#### WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Alaska identified the following objectives for achieving its watershed management goals.

Watershed Management	
Key Goal	Objectives
Permitting, monitoring, and inspections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Issue State permits and certify federal NPDES permits for wastewater discharge facilities in coordination with EPA that ensure safe operation and are protective of public health and watershed uses.</li><li>• Jointly develop an inspection strategy and plan inspections with EPA that support the watershed approach, ensure NPDES permit compliance, and efficiently use state and federal resources.</li><li>• Review major forestry plans of operation/EIAs, inspect logging operations, and provide training and technical assistance to operators.</li><li>• Review draft federal dredge and fill permits and assure that they comply with federal and state law, focusing efforts on those with significant watershed impact potential.</li><li>• Inspect permitted and unpermitted fill projects on targeted watersheds and take appropriate action in cases where violations are identified.</li></ul>

## ALASKA (cont.)

Watershed Management	
Key Goal	Objectives
Provide technical services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical assistance to department staff and respond to approximately 500 requests annually on interpretation of water quality standards regulations and numeric criteria for permits and watershed activities. Hold at least one workshop annually in Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks.</li> <li>• Develop a workbook to identify numeric criteria applicable in Alaska as soon as practical. EPA approval of Alaska's water quality standards and resolution of the National Toxics Rule imposition on Alaska are key components of this task.</li> <li>• Develop and maintain engineering expertise, such as modeling, waste treatment designs, and calculations.</li> <li>• Develop and maintain expertise in chemistry and toxicology, such as quality control or risk assessment.</li> <li>• Provide technical assistance to user groups to minimize or prevent non-point source pollution.</li> <li>• Review and provide comments on approximately 10 state and federal oil and gas lease sales.</li> </ul>
Develop water quality assessment and recovery plans and monitor water quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete two water body assessments and two water body recovery plans identified in the 1996 Section 303(d) list and targeted through the watershed approach.</li> <li>• Monitor Lemon Creek, Vanderbilt Creek, Goldstream Creek, Crooked Creek, and Birch Creek, to ensure that water quality standards are being met.</li> <li>• Develop, maintain and update the State's list of waters needing and receiving water quality assessments— based on targeting and prioritizing through the watershed approach.</li> <li>• Develop, maintain and update the State's 303(d) water body listing as required by the CWA.</li> <li>• Develop environmental indicators to measure the success of watershed protection and restoration projects.</li> </ul>

## ALASKA (cont.)

Watershed Management	
Key Goal	Objectives
Develop and implement statewide program to protect and restore water quality in watersheds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement the Alaska Watershed Monitoring and Assessment Program (AWMAP) to consolidate monitoring efforts in the State and maintain a database of all agencies' monitoring efforts.</li> <li>• Initiate the development of a cross-program, multi-agency, statewide ground water protection strategy and integrate the strategy into the overall watershed protection program by June 30, 1997. Prepare a comparison of that program with a 'core program' as described in EPA's 'Final Comprehensive Ground Water Protection Program Guidance', EPA 100-R-93-001, December 1992. ADEC will continue ongoing efforts in wellhead protection, data management, and the non-point source strategy.</li> <li>• Support the development and implementation of urban non-point source pollution best management practices.</li> <li>• Develop a state wetlands strategy that protects high value wetlands and improves statewide regulation and management of wetlands. This includes the development of tools for determining success based on monitoring and assessing ecological integrity of water bodies (such as the hydrogeomorphic classification or rapid bioassessment techniques).</li> <li>• Manage the statewide non-point source program by administering grant funds and providing accountability for the program. Develop a conceptual plan for allocation and use of available non-point source funding over the next 2 to 4 years. Management tasks include completing a revised statewide non-point source pollution strategy that incorporates the nine key program elements developed by the State/EPA non-point source work group and integrating the strategy into the overall watershed program by June 30, 1997.</li> <li>• Participate in the Alaska Coastal Management Program through approximately 100 project reviews, approximately 200 permit issuances, and review of approximately 8 local</li> </ul>

## ALASKA (cont.)

Watershed Management	
Key Goal	Objectives
Promote watershed protection through local projects that support the development or implementation of the watershed approach in watersheds where point and non-point source pollution are a concern by providing assistance and financial support to local watershed activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Administrate approximately 30 grants for local watershed projects to minimize nonpoint source pollution.</li><li>• Promote watershed protection through public outreach and education on a watershed basis.</li><li>• Participate in federally funded watershed restoration projects on a watershed basis.</li><li>• Participate in grant opportunities via the wetlands grant funding to local watershed communities interested in wetlands planning at the local level.</li><li>• Provide assistance to local coastal management program planning efforts.</li></ul>